



Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

Webisode #34 – A glimpse of Lee's Ferry with Ranger Patrick Gamman Transcript

Ranger Patrick Gamman: Hi. I'm Ranger Patrick Gamman. This Webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon is being recorded on location at the very peaceful Lonely Dell Ranch. Where is the Lonely Dell Ranch? Well, this is a historic orchard and ranch that's located right on the edge of the Paria River. The Paria is a very murky river and it actually dumps into the Colorado River at an important place for both Glen Canyon Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park. This is one of those little hidden treasures up here in northern Arizona. So, Grand Canyon National Park South Rim- 7000 ft- we get snow there in the winter, we have a pinyon-juniper forest. So you're looking down into the Grand Canyon: 5000 ft below you is the Colorado River. Now, if you're thinking about the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, you're up in the Kaibab Plateau for most of that and the developed areas are only open from mid-May to mid-October. The North Rim is 8 to 9000 ft. So you have ponderosa pine trees, aspens, very beautiful area. But, here at the boundary between Glen Canyon Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, well, it's a beautiful place that's open year round. In the summer- very hot- but fall through spring it's pretty nice here. It's pretty nice. We've got a campground that's here and it's not by reservation, it's first-come, first-served, about \$12 a night. And if you happen to be somewhere in northern Arizona, it might be worth a trip here to what's called Lee's Ferry. So, Lee's Ferry historical area and the Lonely Dell Ranch is just one part of that history here. But if you come here to see it, like I said, you might just want to drive on in, see the amazing geology here- there are some beautiful things. But the real neat crux here is because Glen Canyon Recreation Area is here and it meets Grand Canyon National Park, well this is the river, it's the Colorado River and there's two very different things going on. If you go upriver in a boat, well, you're probably a fisherman and you are going up there to find those secret fishing holes and it's part of Glen Canyon Recreation Area. So a lot of that's going on there. But, at that same boat dock, instead of going upriver, if you're going downriver, you're going into Grand Canyon National Park. And, did you know, approximately 35,000 people a year go down the Colorado River inside Grand Canyon National Park? That can be private trips or it can be commercial trips. But once you actually get your boat set up- takes a while to do that- get all your gear there, and launch your team of boats, well, you're committed. You're committed for several days. There's not many places you can take your boat out of, but you can go all the way down to Diamond Creek, or you can go all the way to Lake Mead in a boat. And it's called "floating the Grand." So, if you happen to be in northern Arizona, you might want to think about stopping by, checking out Lee's Ferry, because it's a very stark environment here, not a lot of plant life that's not near the rivers. Beautiful geologically exposed cliffs and then two beautiful rivers here with a lot of life on their edges. Folks, that's all for this Webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon. We'll catch you next time.